



# Clevelanders for Public Transit

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Clevelanders for Public Transit Disappointed in Mayor's Decision**

Clevelanders for Public Transit is disappointed in Mayor Jackson's decision to close Superior Avenue to public transportation. Yesterday he called a press conference on extremely short notice to announce this decision. This is just another example of the lack of public concern with the redesign of Public Square.

“We do not understand why \$120,000 was spent on a traffic study, followed by building a road that will soon to be torn down all with public funds,” said Clevelanders for Public Transit member Nathan Malachowski. “What is the cost and why can't the Mayor follow through with what the study and stakeholders recommended?”

Since RTA received federal funds for Superior Avenue as part of the HealthLine project they will have to get approval from the Federal Transit Administration. Joe Calabrese has said that they would mitigate delays through turning on signal priority for buses on other streets but that will not mitigate the closure. Up to 20,000 riders daily transfer between bus lines and are missing buses because they can no longer easily connect on Public Square. Clevelanders for Public Transit is calling on riders to time the delay around Public Square and let us know any missed connections so we can forward these concerns on to the FTA.

“The sad part is that former Mayor Tom L. Johnson, who has a statue in Public Square, strongly advocated for big tent public meetings and affordable public transportation throughout his career,” said Chris Stocking, member of Clevelanders for Public Transit. “We believe Johnson would be very disappointed with the Mayor's decision as well as his lack of transparency on this issue. Johnson is recognized as one of the best mayors in America, and we ask Frank Jackson to look at his example.”